

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02

PRS-01 EUR-12 /130 W

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R 181348Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8567

UNCLAS AMMAN 3776

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, JO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF OIL REFINERY AT AQABA

1. CAPACITY OF PRESENT JORDANIAN OIL REFINERY, LOCATED IN ZARKA, SUBURB OF AMMAN, IS ABOUT 1-1/4 MILLION TONS OF CRUDE ANNUALLY. CAPACITY OF THIS INSTALLATION IS TO INCREASE TO TOTAL OF ABOUT 4 MILLION TONS OF CRUDE. ORDAN'S FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN CALLS FOR EXPANSION TO BE COMPLETED IN 1978 AT TOTAL COST OF APPROXIMATELY US \$120 MILLION, BUT SOME DELAY IS EXPECTED. ROMANIANS IN COOPERATION WITH US FIRM, PROCON, HAVE RECEIVED AWARD TO UNDERTAKE EXPANSION.

2. EXPANSION OF ZARKA INSTALLATION WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO SATISFY JORDANIAN DEMAND FOR REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS UNTIL 1985, BUT REVISED ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT INCREASED CAPACITY WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT MUCH BEYOND 1980. NEW REFINERY PROPOSED FOR AQABA HAS BEEN UNDER INFORMAL DISCUSSION FOR SOME TIME IN JORDAN. AT THIS POINT ROMANIANS HAVE COMPLETED FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR PROPOSED FACILITY AND SUBMITTED IT TO GOJ. ESTIMATED COST OF NEW FACILITY WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY US \$500 MILLION, AND ITS CAPACITY IS PROPOSED AT 6 MILLION TONS OF CRUDE ANNUALLY. HOWEVER,
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PROPOSED NEW FACILITY IS VERY MUCH IN PRELIMINARY STAGE OF

CONSIDERATION. FOR EXAMPLE, IT DOES NOT APPEAR AT ALL IN FIVE YEAR
PLAN DOCUMENT LISTING MAJOR PLANNED INVESTMENTS FOR 1976-1980
PERIOD. FINAL DECISION TO PROCEED WITH NEW FACILITY IS NOT
EXPECTED FOR SOME TIME.
PICKERING

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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